

How to Build Your Campfire



Build campfires away from overhanging branches, steep slopes, rotten stumps, logs, dry grass and leaves.



Start with dry twigs and small sticks. Remember - a good firebuilder never needs gas or kerosene to start a fire.



Keep the campfire small. A good bed of coals or a small fire surrounded by rocks gives plenty of heat. Use an existing fire ring.



Add larger sticks as the fire builds up. Avoid using hatchets, saws, or breaking branches off trees. Dead and down wood burns easily.



Never leave a campfire unattended. Even a small breeze could quickly cause the fire to spread.



Put the big pieces on last, pointing them toward the center and pushing them into the flames. Use wood no larger than the diameter of an adult wrist.

How to Put Out Your Campfire

If your campfire is not “dead out”, wind can rekindle the embers and start a wildfire. Follow these steps.



Keep plenty of water handy and have a shovel for throwing dirt on the fire if it gets out of control.



Stir the remains, add more water and stir again. Be sure all burned material has been put out and cooled.



Be sure your match is out cold. Break it so you can feel the charred portion before carefully discarding it.



Feel all materials with your bare hand. Make sure that no roots are burning.



Drown the fire with water. Make sure all embers and sticks are wet. Move rocks - there may be burning embers underneath.



Campfires restrictions (such as fires in fire rings only) may be in effect. Watch for signs and obey them.



ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT WILDFIRES.

Daniel Boone National Forest | 1700 Bypass Road | Winchester, KY 40391
United States Department of Agriculture | Forest Service | Southern Region
USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

